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THESE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By

LUCILE KELLING

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CHAPEL HILL

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THESE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

BY

LUCILE KELLING

Professor of Library Science



CHAPEL HILL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

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F O R E W O R D

The map of this study resembles a patchwork quilt in process with huge blocks of the United States left blank, and others very imperfectly covered. Like the maker of the quilt, the author's ability to complete the map was determined by the availability of suitable materials; but unlike the quilt-maker, who can collect new pieces with patience and a careful eye for design, the author was unable to await the publication of new books.

CHAPTER I

AS OTHERS SEE US

Americans are prone to gauge the characteristics of other nations and to speak of their essential qualities in rather definite terms. These opinions are sometimes thoughtful and just, but often they are conventional or untrue in that they take cognizance of individual rather than national characteristics. In *America in Perspective* the tables are turned and we see, whether we like it or not, how others regard us. The surprising thing, however, is not that foreigners can detect our character but, as Henry Steele Commager says in his introduction, that the United States should have its own discernible character "and that it should have been so from the very beginning of the national experiment. For a national character is a product of inheritance, environment, and historical experience. The American inheritance was a heterogeneous one; the American environment—a continent containing within itself almost every extreme of climate, soil, and resources—was immensely complex; the American historical experience was brief and for many of its beneficiaries, vicarious."

Henry Bamford Parkes has used the events and significant movements of the past in *The American Experience* in order to "illustrate important tendencies of the American mind," and "to explain the historical forces that molded the American character and to show how that character has been exhibited at different periods both in thought and in behavior." Since he is concerned with today's problems and our responsibility for their solution he limits himself to religion, philosophy, political ideals and literature rather than to a detailed analysis of political or economic development.

There are innumerable means by which character may be assessed and while most of us have been told, at one time or another, that "actions speak louder than words," there can be no doubt but that our words and our ways of using them also betray us. If this be true, it holds for a nation as well as for an individual. An attempt to draw conclusions about America's character, tendencies, and civilization from her language makes a fascinating study. *Our American Language*, by Richard D. Mallery, is an effective aid in presenting the materials for such a study.

The arts, too, serve as media, often imperishable, for the interpretation of national character. James Thomas Flexner takes this view in *American Painting: First Flowers of Our Wilderness* in which he dis-

cusses our art up to 1774. He points out what is surprising to most Americans—"that painting flowered in their culture generations before literature." Dr. Flexner also reminds his readers that to be "American," art had only to deviate from European art to the extent that American life deviated from European life, and that various concepts might easily come into being simultaneously on both continents without either being imitative.

Examination of the portraits included in the book leads to the belief amusingly expressed by the author: "To see the physical peculiarities of our forefathers would have been interesting, but it is even more interesting to learn from old canvases how our forefathers wished to look. Each picture shows not only a person, but also his class and his generation."

1. THROUGH FOREIGN EYES

America in Perspective: The United States through Foreign Eyes, edited by Henry Steele Commager

Has the foreign view of us been largely favorable or unfavorable? Has there been any growth of feeling for or against us through the years? Has there been any period when criticism has been more favorable or unfavorable than any other?

Do you observe any unity in opinions about us among people from one country? (i.e. do the French agree with each other about us?) Do you think you see evidences of a writer's nationality in his understanding of us?

On the whole do you find the interpretations fair and discriminating?

2. ONE MAN'S OPINION

The American Experience: An Interpretation of the History and Civilization of the American People, by Henry Bamford Parkes

Background and qualifications of author—Aim—Method of treatment of material—Style.

American characters, and forces of civilization that molded them, and manifestations of them.

Do you agree with the author's conclusions?

3. HOW WE SAY IT

Our American Language, by Richard D. Mallery

American-English: its characteristics, difference from British-English in spelling, pronunciation and meanings; regional differences. Give examples. "New World" words. Illustrate. Are any conclusions to be drawn?

Place Names and Personal Names: Regions and types with examples.

Terms from "activities"; slang and colloquialisms.

Does our language have any relation to our national character?

4. "FIRST FLOWERS OF OUR WILDERNESS"

American Painting, by James Thomas Flexner

Colonial art—early phases—relation to American conditions and trends abroad.

Portraits and landscapes: examples and types.

Outstanding artists: Choose a few of particular interest for especially detailed mention and illustration.

Discuss "Was early American art a valid expression of early American life?"

CHAPTER II

AMERICANS FROM ABROAD

No nation has a greater opportunity to understand the peoples of the world or a greater obligation to live at peace with them than has the United States with its diversified heritage and its pattern woven from the threads of many nations. Descended from virtually every race and nationality on the globe, Americans should more truly than anyone else be citizens of one world and at home everywhere. Whether we accept our responsibilities may depend upon our knowledge of the contributions to our "way of life" made by each race and nationality. Our religions, philosophies, concepts of government, our economy, art, science, literature—the language we speak, the songs we sing, the foods we eat—are they all entirely native in origin? From how many countries has the composite of our celebration of Christmas come to us? Is there a region in the world that has not given us a place name? What names are found on the roster of our war dead?

Many recent books portray an America of great human resources. Among these *The Peoples of America Series*, edited by Louis Adamic, is an attempt to add to our knowledge of the constituent parts of our culture and to show us how little excuse we, of all nations, have for "racial hatreds and cultural snobbishness." Books in this series have already appeared about our English heritage, about Spanish-speaking people, and about Americans from Holland, Hungary, and Japan. In preparation are others concerning American Indians (*They Came First*, by D'Arcy McNickle); and *Americans from Sweden* (by Adolph Burnett Benson and Nabor Hedin); *Africa* (by J. Saunders Redding); *Norway* (by Leola Bergman); and *Ireland* (by Shaemus O'Sheel). Additions to the list are to be made from time to time.

THE PEOPLES OF AMERICA

1. England; 2. Hungary; 3. Mexico; 4. Holland; 5. Japan

The Peoples of America Series, edited by Louis Adamic:

Our English Heritage, by Gerald W. Johnston

Americans from Hungary, by Emil Lengyel

North from Mexico: The Spanish-Speaking People of the United States, by Carey McWilliams

Americans from Holland, by Arnold Mulder

Americans from Japan, by Bradford Smith

Choose nationalities of special interest to you and discuss native country background; main tides of immigration; chief settlements in this country; participation in American industry, religion, literature, science, music, education, theatre, the arts; individuals who have played important roles; the contributions the groups have made to America. There are differences of nationality, and differences in our attitudes towards their participation in our culture and economy which will somewhat affect discussion.

Additional Readings:

Americans One and All, edited by Harry Shaw and Ruth Davis (Short stories concerning twenty-three races or nationalities)

American Me, by Beatrice Griffith (Mexican-Americans)

CHAPTER III

BROWN AMERICANS

"It has become commonplace to point out that America is a land of great differences and rapid changes. Still there is strong unity in this nation. Americans of all national origins, classes, regions, creeds, and colors have something in common: a set of beliefs, a political creed. This 'American Creed' is the cement in the diversified structure of this great nation.

"... To be sure, the political creed of America is frequently not put into effect, but as a principle which *ought* to rule, the Creed has been made conscious to everyone in American society. . . . The American Negroes know that they are an oppressed group, experiencing, more than anybody else in the nation, the consequences of the fact that the Creed is not lived up to in America. Yet their faith in the Creed is not simply a means of pleading for their rights. They, like the whites, believe, with one part of themselves, that the Creed is ruling America."

—*The Negro in America*, by Arnold Rose

"I was a Negro; I was therefore that part of history which opposed the good, the just, and the enlightened. I was a Persian, falling before the hordes of Alexander. I was a Carthaginian, extinguished by the legions of Rome. I was a Frenchman at Waterloo, an Anglo-Saxon at Hastings, a Confederate at Vicksburg. I was defeated, wherever and whenever there was a defeat.

"Yet as a boy there in the darkness amid the tightening fright, I knew the inexplicable thing—that my skin was as white as the skin of those who were coming at me. . . .

"I am white and I am black, and know that there is no difference. Each casts a shadow, and all shadows are dark."

—*A Man Called White*, by Walter White

"O, let America be America again—
The land that never has been yet—
And yet must be—the land where *everyman* is free
The land that's mine—the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME—
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again."

—*Let America be America Again*, by Langston Hughes

1. THE NEGRO PROBLEM IN AMERICA

The Negro in America, by Arnold Rose

From *The Negro in America* topics for special study may be selected, such as these: belief and facts about race, economic discrimination, agricultural and urban problems, political factors and practices, administration of justice, Negro leaders, or any others of individual interest.

2. THE STORY OF A TENTH OF THE NATION

Brown Americans, by Edwin Embree

Using *Brown Americans* as a basis of study, discuss the source of the 'dark peoples'; Their entry into the New World; the Mission Schools; Public Schools; Colleges; Making a living; Sharing in the Democracy; Odds against them; Folk Music and Fine Arts.

3. THE NEGRO PROBLEM FROM A NEGRO'S POINT OF VIEW

Into the Main Stream, by Charles S. Johnson

A Man Called White, by Walter White

From these two books may be taken illustrations and incidents to point up the discussion of particular subjects. For certain topics, material may be added from the books below:

Additional Readings:

Witnesses for Freedom: Negro Americans in Autobiography, edited by Rebecca Chalmers Barton

New Day Ascending, by Fred L. Brownlee

The Negro in the American Theatre, by Edith J. R. Isaacs

Race and Nationality as Factors in American Life, by Henry Pratt Fairchild

CHAPTER IV

THE SOUTH

The South has often been said to be more "regional" in the sense that it possesses more marked characteristics than any other part of the United States. No doubt this assertion would be hotly denied by the natives of other regions who could, and would, furnish abundant proof to the contrary. The truth remains, however, that the South does give ample evidence of regional quality which cannot be refuted. This quality is shown in myriad ways and is reflected in the attitudes and loyalties of its people. Yet there is no general agreement as to what precisely the South is, or what attitudes and loyalties best represent it. As one man remarked, "There are many Souths, but mostly, of course, there are two, the Old South and the New." These two, and all the others as well, merge without sharp demarcation and each has intimations of the others. Everyone must decide for himself, which of the many Souths is the true one.

One part of the South, geographically speaking, has the distinction of being unique and thus definable, for there is only one Everglades—river of grass—in the world. Many of the animals and birds which inhabit this "naturalist's paradise" are also unique, at least in the United States. The story of the people who have inhabited the Glades is long in years and full of triumph and heroism with dark spots of shame and misery.

Dr. Fairchild's "Kampong" in Southern Florida on Biscayne Bay is a home also unique in its way. Here this great naturalist has introduced in the course of fifty years, trees and plants from explorations all over the world, but chiefly, since they are best adapted to the climate, from tropical and subtropical lands. Literally the world grows around his door and Dr. Fairchild's intimate, simple recital is interesting to everyone and fascinating to nature lovers.

1. THE SOUTH—OLD AND NEW

The Way of the South, by Howard W. Odum

The South—Old and New, by Francis Butler Simkins

Nature and Resources—Southern people—Plantation—Middle folk—Common man—Religion—Art—Literature.

Transition from Old to New—Leaders—Politics—Education—Economics—Southern Planning—Regional Quality.

Additional Readings:

The Southern Country Editor, by Thomas D. Clark

Look at America: The South, with introduction by David L. Cohn
Where I was Born and Raised, by David L. Cohn
The Making of a Southerner, by Katharine Du Pre Lumpkin
Lower Piedmont Country, by H. C. Nixon

2. SOUTHERN FLORIDA

The Everglades: River of Grass, by Marjory Stoneman Douglas
The World Grows Round My Door, by David Fairchild

Everglades: Nature—People—Early History—Later History—Present Conditions.
The Kampong on Biscayne Bay—Native fauna and flora—Growing things from round the world.

Additional Reading:

Lake Okeechobee, by Alfred Jackson Hanna and Kathryn Abbey Hanna

CHAPTER V

SOME SOUTHERN CITIES

A delightful book by Robert Molloy, who grew up in earshot of St. Michael's bells, is *Charleston: a Gracious Heritage*, beautifully illustrated by E. H. Suydam. In a series of witty and affectionate essays, Mr. Molloy paints a serene and leisurely life among the renowned sites of the past. History, legend, catastrophes of which the city has had more than its share, architecture, and the people of the past and the present are pleasantly and soundly presented.

In *Memphis Down in Dixie*, Shields McIlwaine portrays a city which stands at the crossroads of West and South and shows in its history and people the sometimes conflicting influences of both. "Such a crossroads city as Memphis, that draws and presses into its service all kinds of men, may somewhat deceive an observer. The average man in the street as everywhere, seems interested only in the Good Now and the Better Tomorrow . . . But Memphis women and a few men treasure . . . certain episodes of their town—the planter era, the river glory, the tragi-comic battle before the town of Confederate and Union boats, the fall and occupation of Memphis, the daring exploits of General Forrest, the yellow-fever scourge, the days when Handy brought the blues out of Beale Street, and the political dog days when Mr. Crump emerged to rule while the city grew and prospered. . . . That time for Memphians covers only about four generations and is not greatly important . . . Yesterday, personalized and alive in the mind, lingers in Memphis."

Another river town is Natchez, sometimes called the "outdoor museum of great houses." Natchez, like Memphis, stands on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi and it, too, was a frontier town with influences from both West and South. In *Natchez on the Mississippi*, Harnett T. Kane tells the stories of the old town, the old houses, and the people who dwelt on the plantations on the bluff, with something, too, of the wild and often evil life of Natchez-under-the-Hill. The illustrations of the old houses, doorways and interiors are particularly attractive.

New Orleans has frequently been called a "civilized" city which, from the point of view of its Gallic beginnings and its long and colorful past, looks upon life with tolerant amusement. As Eleanor Early says in *New Orleans Holiday*, "she tells her beads and wears azaleas in her hair." Miss Early's is a light-hearted and pleasant book which

"covers a couple of centuries and a good deal of territory in a few pages," and gives a fine impression of the gaiety and insouciance of the old city. Lura Robinson's *It's an Old New Orleans Custom* is also a lively account of the past and present charms of "the least American of American cities."

In *Mardi Gras*, Robert Tallant describes thoroughly the famous Carnival, its parades, floats, maskers, balls, the crowds, and the many tales connected with it, as well as its origins. One chapter tells "how to get into a ball," and another, "how to be a queen"—useful information for both natives and outsiders.

Not the least interesting thing about *Dinner at Antoine's*, a novel by Frances Parkinson Keyes, is its New Orleans setting, particularly the dinner in the 1840 Room at Antoine's, world-famous restaurant. Creole cookery, camellia culture, Twelfth Night customs and many other features form the background for the story.

The World from Jackson Square, edited by Etolia S. Basso, with an introduction by Hamilton Basso, is a collection of writings about New Orleans which "provide something in the nature of an eyewitness account of the development of the city, from earliest times up to the present."

1. CHARLESTON

Charleston: A Gracious Heritage, by Robert Molloy

Location—History—Lore and Legend.

Forts—Harbor—Environs.

Buildings—Churches—Houses.

People—Characteristic traits—Illustrative tales—Cookery—Speech.

Distinguished men and women—Literature—the Arts.

2. MEMPHIS

Memphis Down in Dixie, by Shields McIlwaine

Beginnings and later history—Importance of South and West influence.

King Cotton—Lumber—River trade.

Politics—Boss Crump.

Beale Street.

3. NATCHEZ

Natchez on the Mississippi, by Harnett T. Kane

History—Natchez Trace—On the bluff and under the Hill—Natchez today.

"Plantation Museum": Choose as many of the old houses as desired, describe each as it once was, describe the present condition of one or two of the old houses, and relate some of the stories connected with them.

4. NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans Holiday, by Eleanor Early

It's an Old New Orleans Custom, by Lura Robinson

Mardi Gras, by Robert Tallant

Early history and interesting and famous characters connected with it.

Society, traditions, and customs, hospitality, cookery.

Vieux Carré: streets, houses, courtyards, iron lace balconies, etc.

Mardi Gras: History, parades, balls, etc.

Additional Readings:

The World from Jackson Square, edited by Etolia S. Basso

Dinner at Antoine's, by Frances Parkinson Keyes

CHAPTER VI

LIFE ON THE YANKEE COAST

Much has been written, and rightly so, of the New England "character," the New England literary and cultural tradition, and the significance of New England history. But to many Americans, New England has another aspect—that of a highly desirable playground. Cape Cod and the Maine coast come most readily to mind in this connection and each has its staunch adherents. History, local color, and the much-vaunted picturesqueness add immeasurably to the pleasure and interest of summer visitors.

In *Down Cape Cod*, Katharine Dos Passos and Edith Shay have skilfully blended a comprehensive guide to the seventy-two miles of seaward-stretching land and a narrative with plenty of background flavor into an enjoyable and explicitly informative book.

As a pilgrim who returned to Cape Cod by plane in 1946 and in seven weeks hiked two hundred and thirty-five miles, Edward Rowe Snow gathered innumerable stories of the past and present relating to the fifteen towns and their inhabitants, lifesavers and coast guardsmen, sea captains and shipwrecks, and other aspects of Cape life. Many of these are included in *A Pilgrim Returns to Cape Cod*.

New Bedford, although not on Cape Cod, is so closely akin to the Cape in spirit that the memories of a boyhood in one add to knowledge of the other. Llewellyn Howland recalls pleasurable the boats, races, fishing expeditions, clambakes and seasonal feasts and rites of the happy days he spent in New England fifty years ago.

The coast of Maine and its myriad islands, together with the lobstering men, the mountain and the island men, and the poets, writers, and summer visitors are portrayed by the poetic and devoted Robert P. Tristram Coffin in *Yankee Coast*.

Along the Maine Coast, by W. N. Wilson and Dorothy Mitchell, is a brief chronicle of a walking tour—"three hundred miles of artistic observation and historical narrative." Although each village, cove, and harbor is given little space, an amazing amount of information somehow comes into the possession of the reader.

Elizabeth Coatsworth and her husband, Henry Beston, have written many books about Maine and New England life. In *Maine Ways* Miss Coatsworth conveys by means of sketches and tales of moods and incidents the charm of the Maine coast where "farming and sea-

faring meet." *Northern Farm* is the narrative of a "country year," with its small routines, warmth and simplicity. Henry Beston reveals himself as one who is "wisely prepared to take great pleasure in little things."

New England's Buried Treasure is the first of the new "American Cave Series," which is to reveal the wonders of little-known caverns, quarries, and underground passages throughout the United States. The series has been officially approved by the National Speleological Society. Clay Perry includes in this first of the series many stories of New England caves which "have sheltered robbers, lovers, hermits, love-lorn, criminals, counterfeeters galore; lost persons, lost sheep and dogs, cattle, wild animals, birds, bats, fugitives from justice, rebels and Tories, pale crickets and spiders and moths, white earthworms, poets, and an army of small boys." Exploration and research form the solid background of the book.

1. CAPE COD

Down Cape Cod, by Katharine Dos Passos and Edith Shay

A Pilgrim Returns to Cape Cod, by Edward Rowe Snow

The Cape: history, geography, industries.

The Sea: sea captains, shipwrecks, stories and legends.

Old houses, gardens, cookery.

Art and the theatre

The towns: what to see; special interest; history and character.

Additional Readings:

Sou'West and By West of Cape Cod, by Llewellyn Howland

The Outermost House, by Henry Beston

2. THE COAST OF MAINE

Yankee Coast, by Robert P. Tristram Coffin

Along the Maine Coast, by W. N. Wilson and Dorothy Mitchell

Character of the coast and its geography.

The people and coast life.

Qualifications of authors and artists of these books; their other books.

Additional Readings:

Northern Farm, by Henry Beston

Maine Ways, by Elizabeth Coatsworth

3. UNDERGROUND NEW ENGLAND

New England's Buried Treasure, by Clay Perry

Geological aspects and history.

Varieties of caves; formations

Famous caves and their stories.

CHAPTER VII

MORE NEW ENGLAND

Mary Ellen Chase, in her introduction to *Look at America: New England*, says that the six New England states, "more than any other group within the forty-eight, form a distinct and, indeed, indissoluble unity. For, different as each is from the other five, all nevertheless possess in common certain group characteristics—similar features of topography, vagaries of climate, facts of history, forms of society, types of industry, traits of architecture, attitudes of mind—all of which, over a period of three hundred years, have tended to strengthen rather than to diminish their common life and individuality." Yet a leisurely turning of the pages of *New England* reveals many variations within this unity.

Pine, Potatoes and People, by Helen Hamlin, amplifies one of the most striking of these variations in its picture of Aroostook County, Maine, the northernmost frontier of New England, which entirely refuses to be cast in any common mold. Its inhabitants do not even regard themselves as Yankees, which should show them for the individualists they are. Miss Hamlin's fine portrayal of the French people of Maine is of special value and interest.

The Connecticut, by Walter Hard is the story of the river which flows from Canada to Long Island, touching the lives of the people of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut in its course. The great up-river industrial cities receive considerable attention.

In *Vermont Heritage*, Barrows Mussey illustrates by means of a good many engravings, Green Mountain scenery, politics, and the life of early Vermont, with some regard for the present day.

Some aspects of Maine life are pictured in excellent fashion by John Gould in *The House that Jacob Built*. When the big square farmhouse, built in 1780 by his great-grandfather, burned down in 1940, Mr. Gould determined to rebuild it almost precisely as it had been. This he did in 1946 with the help of all his neighbors. This book about the rebuilding is, according to Mary Ellen Chase "a dozen morning calls in Maine kitchens, a score of wayside conversations along back roads, and any number of country suppers at Maine tables, all occasions as real and consequential as Jane Austen's seemingly inconsequential tea parties and morning visits; in fact, with no literary pretensions whatsoever, John Gould has captured not talk alone but its

meaning, not alone the outward and visible signs of winter storms, or honest people, or auction sales, or county fairs, or Maine cellars, but their inward and spiritual graces as well."

Let Me Show You New Hampshire, by Ella Shannon Bowles; *Let Me Show You Vermont*, by Charles E. Crane; and *What to See and Do in New England* give a great deal of information of special interest to the tourist who wants to see the unusual places along with the more obvious historic sites and scenery.

George Francis Marlowe believes that in order to understand New England fully one must study her churches. Through the perusal of diaries and church records, he has reconstructed the lives of the people connected with the beautiful old buildings which he describes in *Churches of Old New England*. Mr. Marlowe, who is a professional architect, begins his tour in Boston with "Old South" and ends at Portland's First Parish Church. The photographs by Samuel Chamberlain are memorable.

1. THE NEW ENGLAND STATES

The Connecticut, by Walter Hard

Look at America: New England, by the editors of *Look* in collaboration with Mary Ellen Chase

Choose as many of the states as desired and consider such topics as: nature of population, scenery, industrial development, history, government, colleges and schools, people of special interest, writers and artists, historic buildings and sites, etc.

Additional Readings:

Let Me Show You New Hampshire, by Ella Shannon Bowles

Let Me Show You Vermont, by Charles E. Crane

The House That Jacob Built, by John Gould (Maine)

Pine, Potatoes and People, by Helen Hamlin (Aroostook County, Maine)

Vermont Heritage, by Barrows Mussey

What to See and Do in New England, by G. W. Seaton

Yankee Life, by Barrows Mussey

2. CHURCHES

Churches of Old New England, by George Francis Marlowe

Famous old meetinghouses, colonial architecture, pastors and congregations.

CHAPTER VIII

BOSTON AND THE NEW ENGLAND VILLAGES

Cleveland Amory, himself a Bostonian of the "proper" sort, has collected stories and legends, old and new, to depict in *The Proper Bostonians* a society that has long been molded in a cast-iron pattern. The Boston he describes is the traditional one, dominated by a small group which ignores the numerous other much larger groups which make up the city's population. But with a figurative microscope it is possible to detect some small signs of change. This is the first volume in the "America Society Series" which has as its aim "to portray the individual characteristics, to underscore the idiosyncrasies, and to trace the growth of sectional societies with special emphasis on local traditions and on the personalities who embodied them."

Invitation to Boston, by A. C. Lyons is a lively guidebook combining anecdotes, personalities, history and sight-seeing itineraries. There are twelve chapters, each emphasizing different phases of the city's past and present. Photographs by Samuel Chamberlain and decorative maps by Chadbourne and Wilcox add greatly to the book's attractiveness.

With text by Esther Forbes and photographs by Arthur Griffin, *The Boston Book* covers lightly a tour of the usual "things to see."

Samuel Chamberlain chose a favorite village from each of the six New England States to demonstrate "the beauty possible in an American village" and "to give a graphic impression of the small community and the part it plays in the American way of life." *Six New England Villages* is made up chiefly of beautiful photographs with informative captions and introductory sketches.

Village Greens of New England, by Louise Andrews Kent is a penetrating and humorous addition to the collected evidence of the beauty inherent in village life. Mrs. Kent traces the history of these green expanses and gives an anecdotal account of them with the meeting-houses, taverns, and houses surrounding them and of the people who were associated with them. There are photographs by Arthur Griffin. The last chapter lists, with brief descriptions, many greens for which the exigencies of space forbade fuller treatment. More than one hundred and fifty greens and commons are included in the book.

South Shore Town is another of Elizabeth Coatsworth's poetic tributes to New England; this time to Hingham, its homes and churches

and harbor, its history and legends. In Charles D. Hubbard's *An Old New England Village* the artist-author describes a way of life of the past and the traces of it which are still found in New England villages. The book reproduces in exact facsimile the artist's handwork.

The theme of *The Garretson Chronicle*, a novel by Gerald Warner Brace, is the conflict between past and present, in a village "near Boston, not far from Concord." It is the portrait of a "last Puritan" by a son who revolts against tradition.

1. BOSTON

The Proper Bostonians, by Cleveland Amory

Invitation to Boston, by A. C. Lyons

"First" families—The Boston woman—Customs—Clubs—Character of "the Proper Bostonian."

The Guide Book Boston: Unusual and interesting streets—Old houses and doorways—the Common—Churches and burying grounds—Historic shrines—Environs.

Additional Reading:

The Boston Book, by Esther Forbes

2. VILLAGES AND GREENS

Six New England Villages, by Samuel Chamberlain

Village Greens of New England, by Louise Andrews Kent

Typical villages—Charm and beauty.

Houses—Doorways, Fences, Trees and Landscape, Varied history and Famous inhabitants.

The Green — Patterns — The Meetinghouse — The Tavern—The Houses—The Elms.

Additional Readings:

An Old New England Village, by Charles B. Hubbard

South Shore Town, by Elizabeth Coatsworth

The Garretson Chronicle, by Gerald Warner Brace

Boston: Cradle of Liberty, by John Edward Jennings

CHAPTER IX

THE MIDWEST AND POINTS SOUTH

The Midwest to many Americans evokes broad prairies, fields of wheat and corn, prosperous farmhouses, small towns and a people almost entirely rural with the urban population made up of retired farmers. Such a picture ignores the mountains, the rich mineral deposits, the forests, the immense industrial developments and the great cities such as Chicago. The richness of natural resources has had its influence upon Midwestern life and character; so, too, have the frontier life of the pioneers from the seaboard states and the invasions of racial stocks from very nearly the world over. The politics of the region have been affected by the relative security of inland life; and they have in turn had their effect upon the nation as a whole. Like other regions, the Midwest has its own store of tales and legends and folklore. Its contributions to American culture in music, art and literature have been rich and notable.

Indiana has been called the most typical of all the states in the United States. "Here," says John Bartlow Martin, "is the flowering glory of native capitalism; here are some aspects of its decay. Here is the fire of provincial political protest; here are the false leaders who gave the people false gods. Here is the small-town mind at its best and worst. Here is the frost on the pumpkin; here is the cocktail lounge. Here are the great white manor houses on bounteous soil and the shacks that cling to eroded clay hillsides."

Arkansas lies to the south of the "corn country" proper, but the Mississippi on its east has had an effect on both. Arkansas is Southern but it is also Western. It has two areas—delta and mountain—so different that they might be two states or two regions remote from each other. Each has its "typical" life. Today it has oil, bauxite, and power which have made their contribution to Arkansas life. The sharecropper, the Ozarker, the frontiersman and the fine gentleman have all played their rôle in the State's history.

1. CORN COUNTRY

Corn Country, by Homer Croy

Corn-raising states—Early settlers, Claim jumpers, Horse thieves, and Rainmakers—Grasshoppers—Towns, Churches—Incidents of early days.

Present-day life—Contests, Fairs, and Celebrations—Traits and characteristics of People—Personalities—Illustrative Anecdotes.

Additional Readings:

Look at America: The Midwest, by Louis Bromfield
The Home Place, by Wright Morris

2. THE TYPICAL STATE

Indiana: An Interpretation, by John Bartlow Martin

Hoosier background—History—Literature—Politics—People—Today.

3. A SOUTH-SOUTHWESTERN STATE

Arkansas, by John Gould Fletcher

Location—Climate—Mountains and Lowlands: Influence on character of State—Spanish exploration—the French—Territorial days—Statehood—Plantation days and the War.

Sharecroppers—Mountaineers—Changes—The Present.

CHAPTER X

THE WEST

Many sections of the West still remain wild and remote, but Wallace Stegner asserts that the region has been conquered and "conquered almost exclusively by modern transportation. . . . The contemporary American can go where he likes, pick his terrain and his altitude and his climate, see the magnificent color and raw topography of one of the world's great lands, and be comfortable and perfectly safe while doing it."

This is comforting to travelers who lack the pioneer spirit and prefer to take the hardships and excitements of the frontier vicariously. Under modern modes of travel, "in this region where relatively few people live, relatively enormous numbers can go to restore themselves in the open."

Yet in his pleasure over the canyons and the mountains and the other grandeurs of this extensive region, the traveler senses with Mr. Stegner that "the quality of the West is not entirely in its spectacular and advertised tourist attractions, magnificent as those are. It is a pervasive atmosphere, a dryness, a spaciousness, a loveliness, a quality of light and a special set of colorings. It is operative over that whole vast territory, a third of the continental United States and it makes plains and mountains and deserts so surely one region that a Westerner brought into it at any point would know that he was home."

Texas, with its four-century history, alien peoples and heritages, represents many cultures and has something of the nature of both South and West, but as a "country within a country" it retains an individualism which can be discerned in everyone who has been absorbed into the Texan life. "You sense it in the rolling of the cattle-man, in the swagger of the derrick roustabout, in the quiet drawl of the piney-woods cracker. You cringe at it in the boasting of the professional Texan."

1. THE MISSOURI VALLEY

The Missouri Valley: Land of Drouth, Flood, and Promise, by Rufus Terral
Discovery—Terrain—Water—Resources—Settlement—People—Future Plans.

2. FRONTIER LIFE IN WEST

Seventy Miles from a Lemon, by Haydie Yates

Pioneering in 1927—Setting—Neighbors—Difficulties—Rodeos.
or

A Ghost Town on the Yellowstone, by Elliot Paul

Frontier life in Montana in 1907—Trembles, town of the wild West—People—Weather—Irrigation project—Incidents.

3. CANYONS OF THE WEST

The Inverted Mountains: Canyons of the West, edited by Roderick Peattie

Features—Rivers—Deserts—Trails—Plant, Animal, and Bird Life—People of the Region.

Additional Readings: (For 1, 2, 3)

Exploring our National Parks and Monuments, by Devereux Butcher

The Big Divide, by David Lavender

Look at America: The Central Northwest, by Wallace Stegner

4. TEXAS

Big Country: Texas, by Donald Day

Texas spirit—The Land—Diverse heritages—Cattle—Sheep—Cotton—Oil—The Texan

Additional Reading:

Southwesterners Write, edited by T. M. Pearce and A. P. Thomason

CHAPTER XI

THE PACIFIC STATES

Nard Jones, native of Washington, paints in *Evergreen Land* an affectionate and admiringly humorous portrait of the state which the Cascades divide neatly into two very different areas. As Mr. Jones says, "All of Washington is *not* evergreen. East of the Cascade Mountains there are hot and dry summers which brown the grass and crack open the plain. Furthermore, there are species of trees whose leaves actually fall, whose boughs become bleak and barren in winter . . . There are actually vast areas in the State of Washington where the rhododendron, the State flower, simply cannot grow at all. . . .

"But west of the Cascades the land is, truly, ever green. It is green with Douglas fir and western cedar trees which grow even brighter in winter because they are varnished with the rain and the mist fog. It is green with mosses and succulent grasses in the flat coastal valley floors. Sometimes its very beaches are green with kelp and the stones are salt emerald in the dusk. Even the sea and the waters of the inlets are green sometimes."

The photographs of Oregon and Washington which, with a brief introduction and commentary captions, make up *Northwest Corner* add immeasurably to knowledge of the less generally known aspects of those states. The familiar scenes such as Mount Rainier, the Columbia, and Crater Lake are also included.

The Far West, one of the *Look at America Series*, with both text and pictures, is illuminating for the Washington region as well as for Oregon and California.

In *California in Our Time* (1900-1940) Robert Glass Cleland discusses the factors and conditions which caused the amazingly rapid material progress of the State and its parallel cultural development, along with the "spectacular liabilities"—economic, social and political problems—which developed side by side with its "spectacular assets."

William Martin Camp begins his *San Francisco: Port of Gold* with the statement that "there are two San Franciscos: one is the City rising on steep hills where skyscrapers, circled by fog banks in the afternoon, rise like towers to the sun. The other is the bay from which the City gets its name." It is about the Port, the water front of San Francisco that Mr. Camp writes, dealing in turn with the days of the gold rush, the fortune hunters and the Confederate privateers, "Men and Ships," and the labor history of San Francisco.

This is San Francisco tells the story of the city street by street, each as it is today along with the people and the events of the past. From the Embarcadero to the Great Highway, Robert O'Brien reproduces delightfully the personality and flavor of San Francisco in sketches and stories which picture the people who made the city's legend and history.

The Sierra Nevada; The Range of Light is made up of nine essays, by authorities in the various fields in which they write, on phases of the "snowy range," as the Spanish called it. These essays are edited by Roderick Peattie and Donald Culross Peattie and illustrated with photographs and maps. Claims for the Sierra Nevada are that it "has everything"—the most stupendous scenery, incomparable forests, the most picturesque history, the highest waterfalls. Add to this a scattering of gem-like lakes both large and small, great accessibility yet plenty of primeval wilderness, and a climate that can be enjoyed in one way or another the year around."

Further description of these "gem-like lakes," especially Lake Tahoe and its neighbors, is to be found in another of the American Lake Series, *Sierra-Nevada Lakes* by George Hinkle and Bliss Hinkle.

Yosemite is a part of the Sierra Nevada and a "Mecca for Mountaineers." Carl Parcher Russell, Chief Naturalist United States National Park Service, tells the history of the great national park in *One Hundred Years in Yosemite*.

1. WASHINGTON

The Far West, edited by Joseph Henry Jackson (Use for topics 1, 2, 3, 4)
Evergreen Land: A Portrait of the State of Washington, by Nard Jones

History: settlement—pioneering—territorial days.

Topography: the inland empire and the coast.

Towns and Cities: industries.

Playgrounds—Pioneer picnic—Culture.

Additional Reading:

Northwest Corner: Oregon and Washington: The Last Frontier, photographs by Henry Sheldon; introduction and commentary by Stewart Holbrook

2. CALIFORNIA

California in Our Time (1900-1940) by Robert Glass Cleland

Twentieth century growth, development, change: Factors; Resulting problems.

Population—Minorities—Migrants—False Prophets.

Cultural aspects; Literature; Hollywood.

3. SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco: Port of Gold, by William Martin Camp
This is San Francisco, by Robert O'Brien

The Port—Early days—Middle years—Plans and establishment of the Fort—Men, Ships and Labor.

The Streets: choose as many of the colorful or interesting streets as desired and tell something of their history, romance and people and what they are at present.

4. THE SIERRA NEVADA

The Sierra Nevada: The Range of Light, edited by Roderick Peattie
One Hundred Years in Yosemite: The Story of a Great Park and Its Friends, by Carl Parcher Russell

The Range—Peaks—Canyons—Cliffs—Lakes—Waterfalls—Foothills.

Forest—Trees—Birds.

Trails—Climbing—Winter sports.

Yosemite—History of the Park.

Additional Reading:

Sierra-Nevada Lakes, by George Hinkle and Bliss Hinkle

CHAPTER XII

THE FORTY-NINTH STATE

Which is to be the forty-ninth state? Both Alaska and Hawaii have put forward claims; each has its contribution to make to the Union; each has many problems which Statehood would do much to solve. Only one can be the forty-ninth but it is to be hoped that the other will speedily be made the fiftieth State.

Alaska, in many minds, means "frontier"—the only frontier left to today's would-be American pioneer. Certainly it is a land with great possibilities, so little developed that opportunities of all sorts abound. *Alaska Now*, by Herbert H. Hilscher gives an account of present-day life in the territory, which should be invaluable both to sight-seer and to settler. Information about all matters connected with Alaska is included: politics, the climate, the cost of living, geography, history, scenery, the inhabitants, and the difficulties that would confront a homesteader. The important towns with their schools, churches, libraries, recreational facilities and special occupations are also described.

Edward A. Herron in *Alaska: Land of Tomorrow* emphasizes Alaska's advantages, hardships and prospects for the future. This book furnishes a readable and helpful picture of the territory, dealing with every phase of its life—economic, social, and political.

Constance and Harmon Helmericks relate in *We Live in the Arctic* the expedition they made in the unknown and sometimes unmapped regions within the Arctic Circle. They lived in a cabin at the junction of the Kutuck and Alatna Rivers, completely isolated during the long months of an arctic winter. Their intense joy of living and adventurous resourcefulness make their book delightful reading.

Dr. Marius Barbeau, folklorist and anthropologist for the Government of the Dominion of Canada, believes that the American Indian had Asiatic beginnings as shown in the traces of ancient culture patterns surviving in legends, ceremonies and work habits. This theory is the basis of his *Alaska Beckons*. The book is illustrated with drawings by Arthur Price, a motion picture craftsman and stage designer.

In *Four Fares to Juneau* Marie Small, through a charmingly simple, personal narrative conveys the atmosphere of Alaska and shows what pioneers will face and how problems may be met. Jean Potter in *Flying North* tells the story of the Alaskan pilot and incidentally pictures the

daily life of Alaskans. Martha Ferguson McKeown, the niece of Mont Hawthorne, an Alaskan pioneer, tells the story of his life in *The Trail Led North*.

"Many are the books that evoke the romantic side of life in the Hawaiian Islands," say the authors of *Hawaii: A History from Polynesian Kingdom to American Commonwealth*. "One can find in this subtropical archipelago a wealth of glamor, and the romance of swaying palm trees and hula skirts has not passed away. But a careful analysis of the facts of history that have created the life of modern Hawaii will reveal a deeper romance at work here—the romance of reality. Throughout its life—as a native monarchy, as a polynesian republic, and as an American territory—the mainsprings of Hawaii's prosperity have been trade, industry, and agriculture. Tourists can still find in these islands the picturesque languor of flowery Polynesia. But no one should overlook the forces by which, through economic initiative and under democratic ideals, a group of Pacific islands has been transformed, within a few lifetimes, into a thriving commonwealth of almost half a million Americans of many ancestral stocks, all working together to erect an American State at the 'Crossroads of the Pacific.' "

One of the authors of *Hawaii: A History*, Ralph S. Kuykendall, is the world's foremost authority on Hawaiian history, and has long been a member of the Department of History at the University of Hawaii. A. Grove Day is now Professor of English at the University of Hawaii.

Edwin J. Burrows in *Hawaiian-Americans: An Account of the Mingling of Japanese, Chinese, Polynesian, and American Cultures*, shows by what steps these people with their widely divergent heritages have been molded into a comparatively homogeneous American community.

Through a series of stories *In a Hawaiian Valley* gives impressions of the Hawaii that tourists seldom see, far from urban settlements. Kathleen Dickenson Mellen has a genuine feeling for the people of whom she writes.

1. ALASKA

Alaska Beckons, by Marius Barbeau

We Live in the Arctic, by Constance and Harmon Helmericks

Alaska, Land of Tomorrow, by Edward A. Herron

Alaska Now, by Herbert H. Hilscher

Native races—Aboriginal cultures—Asiatic beginnings—Legends, work, habits, ceremonies.

Geography—Climate—History—Towns.

Living conditions—Schools and University.
Wilderness exploration—An Arctic winter.

Additional Readings:

The Trail Led North, by Martha Ferguson McKeown
The Flying North, by Jean Potter
Four Fares to Juneau, by Marie Small

2. HAWAII

Hawaiian Americans, by Edwin G. Burrows
Hawaii: The Forty-Ninth State, by Blake Clark
Hawaii: A History, by Ralph S. Kuykendall and A. Grove Day
The Islands: Location, Geography, Climate; Ancient Hawaiians.
The Kingdom; The Republic.
The Territory.
The People: Races—Culture.

Additional Reading:

In a Hawaiian Valley, by Kathleen Dickenson Mellen

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